

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJ: ARTS STUDENT EXCHANGE

REF: MOSCOW 10740, STATE 148246

1. PROPOSED EXCHANGE OF STUDENTS IN THE ARTS APPEARS TO BE HANDICAPPED BY MISUNDERSTANDINGS ON BOTH US AND SOVIET SIDES. THIS EXCHANGE WAS FIRST PROPOSED BY JOHN RICHARDSON TO MINCULT FURTSEVA DURING HER CALL AT DEPARTMENT APRIL 3, 1973. FURTSEVA AGREED AND THIS EXCHANGE WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INCLUDED IN PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES FOR 1974-76 (PARA 1 D), ANNEXED TO EXCHANGES AGREEMENT SIGNED JUNE 19, 1973. IT WAS CLEAR TO BOTH SIDES AT THE TIME THAT THIS EXCHANGE WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS OF THE PERFORMING, GRAPHIC AND PLASTIC ARTS TO STUDY IN THE OTHER COUNTRY, OPPORTUNITIES WHICH HAD BEEN LACKING UNDER PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS.

2. DEPT ASKED IIE TO ADMINISTER THIS EXCHANGE AND TO RECRUIT QUALIFIED US NOMINEES. DESPITE GREAT INTEREST IN US FOR ARTISTIC STUDIES IN USSR, IIE WAS ABLE TO RECOMMEND ONLY ONE CANDIDATE, JOHN WILLIAM BARKER, WHOSE APPLICATION

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WAS SENT EMBASSY APRIL 12. WE HAVE SOME DOUBTS ABOUT BARKER'S QUALIFICATIONS FOR PROGRAM SINCE HE IS AGE 43, DANCE TEACHER AND DIRECTOR OF PRIVATE DANCE SCHOOL, AND HIS FIRST PROPOSAL IS TO TEACH A CLASS OF BOYS AT THE VAGANOVA

CHOREOGRAPHIC SCHOOL, LENINGRAD. BARKER APPEARS TO BE A DISCIPLE OF THE VAGANOVA METHOD AND IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT HE WOULD BE BRINGING FROM THE US TO THIS EXCHANGE.

3. SOVIETS HAVE RESPONDED BY NOMINATING V.P. SHESTAKOV, WHO IS A RESEARCHER IN AESTHETICS AT MINCULT'S INSTITUTE FOR HISTORY OF ARTS AND WHO WOULD APPEAR MORE SUITED FOR IREX SCHOLARLY EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WE ARE WILLING, HOWEVER, TO ACCOMMODATE MINCULT IN ORDER TO KEEP THIS EXCHANGE GOING, AND HAVE CONSULTED WITH IREX WHICH HAS INFORMALLY AGREED TO PROGRAM SHESTAKOV UNDER FINANCIAL CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO ITS PROGRAM WITH MHE. (FYI: IREX IS INTERESTED IN HANDLING NEW PROGRAM WITH MINCULT AND WE BELIEVE THEY ARE WELL QUALIFIED TO DO SO). WE ARE NOT, HOWEVER, ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT BARKER NOMINATION AND REQUEST EMBASSY'S VIEWS, AS WELL AS STATUS OF HIS NOMINATION.

4. REQUEST EMBASSY DISCUSS WITH MINCULT, ATTEMPT TO CLARIFY FUTURE OF THIS EXCHANGE. WE CAN ACCEPT SHESTAKOV, PROVIDED HIS ENGLISH CAPABILITY AND ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS ARE IN ORDER, BUT WE WOULD EXPECT FUTURE NOMINATIONS ON BOTH SIDES TO BE IN LINE WITH INTENT OF THE AGREEMENT. IF MINCULT (OR EMBASSY) PREFERS NOT TO ACCEPT BARKER, WE CAN MAKE UP HIS GRANT BY NOMINATING ADDITIONAL PERSON IN FUTURE YEAR. IF MINCULT AGREEABLE TO PROGRAMMING THROUGH IREX, THEN IREX AND MINCULT WOULD WORK OUT FINANCIAL TERMS DIRECTLY. IN THIS CONNECTION WE NOTE THAT PARA 2 OF "CONDITIONS GOVERNING EXCHANGES IN FIELD OF EDUCATION" WHICH IS ANNEXED TO AGREEMENT, SPECIFIES THAT IREX WILL NOT BE ADMINISTERING THE ARTS EXCHANGE. WE WOULD THEREFORE NEED MINCULT CONCURRENCE IN WAIVING THIS CONDITION, AT LEAST FOR SHESTAKOV. SINCE SHESTAKOV PLANS COAST-TO-COAST TRAVEL, REQUEST EMBASSY ALSO POINT OUT THAT PARA 1 A OF "CONDITIONS" PROVIDES THAT SENDING SIDE PAYS ALL TRANSPORTATION COSTS (INCLUDING DOMESTIC TRAVEL IN RECEIVING COUNTRY).

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5. TO INITIATE PLACEMENT FOR SHESTAKOV IN SEPTEMBER WE NEED SOONEST FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL INFO: DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH, AREA OF SPECIALIZATION IN AESTHETICS, EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND, PUBLICATIONS INCLUDING NAMES OF JOURNALS WHERE PUBLISHED, BRIEF PARAGRAPH DESCRIBING PROPOSED RESEARCH, INDICATION OF PREVIOUS CORRESPONDENCE WITH US

UNIVERSITIES OR MUSEUMS, NAME OF ADVISOR OR DEPARTMENT HEAD  
AT HIS INSTITUTE. KISSINGER

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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